



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony Prepared for the
Ways and Means Committee
on
Senate Bill 369
March 23, 2022
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about sufficient and sustainable livelihood. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a faith community with three synods in every part of the State.

Our community teaches that adequate income, public support for sufficient livelihood, and appropriately progressive taxation are benchmarks for a just public policy ["Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," ELCA, 1999].

As advocates for the Earned Income Tax Credit, and various initiatives for its expansion, we favor making those eligible aware of it. **Senate Bill 369** will provide an outreach instrument to the eligible by means of tax preparation. This approach has worked well in Maryland for program notification of several State benefits.

There are still workers eligible for the EITC who don't receive it. The EITC is one of the most effective and efficient tools for raising income, lifting people out of poverty, and making work worth it. It has also traditionally been a non-partisan consensus policy. Our community supports it at the federal level and across the states.

We support **Senate Bill 369's** approach for capturing all the benefit and support available through the EITC to hard working, lower-income Maryland households. We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson